



Museum Education: Chemistry Lab Summer Internship Position Description

POSITION SUMMARY:

Museum Education interns are in the halls and labs of OMSI where they facilitate hands-on science experiences and inspire museum guests to make amazing connections with science through activities, demonstrations, and informal interactions. Interns assist Museum Education staff in the presentation and development of the museum halls and labs.

This position is for the Chemistry Lab and reports to the Chemistry Educator and/or Turbine Hall Assistant Manager. OMSI's Chemistry Lab is the first hands-on wet chemistry lab experience in a science museum in the nation. Visitors to the lab put on goggles and explore a variety of phenomena in chemistry using actual chemistry tools and chemicals. Topics change weekly, ensuring a dynamic experience for staff and guests alike!

EXPERIENCES THE INTERNSHIP WILL PROVIDE:

- Facilitate hands-on chemistry activities and interactions with museum guests of all ages
- Work in a collaborative environment with paid and unpaid staff of a variety of ages, experiences, and backgrounds
- Prepare mixtures and solutions for lab and guest use
- Develop hands-on, interactive chemistry activities that align with this year's National Chemistry Week theme

KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/ABILITIES:

What we are looking for:

- Strong communication, customer service, and problem-solving skills
- Self-directed and willing to take initiative
- Desire and/or ability to present science process and content in an engaging way to a broad age range
- Present a professional personal appearance
- Must be dependable, punctual, and willing to commit to a schedule
- Interest in chemistry and science education
- Basic familiarity and comfort with chemical handling and chemical safety

Training you will receive:

- General informal science education philosophies and pedagogy
- Facilitation best practices, including how to facilitate intergenerational communication, frame questions, gauge and respond to guests' social and educational goals, cultivate learner-driven investigations, and practice reflective facilitation
- Culturally responsive facilitation strategies
- Museum safety and emergency response
- Chemical handling and hazard communication

SCHEDULE:

- Schedule depends on needs of the lab or hall, but will be regular and predictable week to week.
- Minimum of 16 hours per week for at least 12 weeks.
- Since the museum is open 7 days per week in the summer, our preference is for both weekend and weekday availability.

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LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Recognizing and promoting of science process skills
- Fostering learner-driven investigations
- Negotiating facilitator and visitor goals
- Cultivating reflective facilitation practices
- Supporting culturally responsive facilitation techniques
- Identifying benefits and disadvantages of using different types of objects and models in learning experiences
- Gaining knowledge of museum culture and practices
- Designing, testing, and delivering hands-on, chemistry activities

PHOTOS OF THE WORK AREA:

